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that the author may be congratulated upon the possession of the painstaking industry and ripeness of judgment which disarm the most captious of critics.

HERBERT C. BELL.

University of Pennsylvania.

Reinsch, P. S. *American Legislatures and Legislative Methods.* Pp. x, 337. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Century Co., 1907.

This book is a middle term between a monographic study and a popular discussion, and profits by the advantages of the two extremes. The author writes from the background of a thorough technical knowledge, but weaves into the presentation a wealth of incident and illustration that make the book readable without destroying its critical character.

The field covered includes both national and state legislatures, but the discussion of the first division adds comparatively little to the knowledge of the student of American legislative action. The discussion of the state legislatures, however, is a distinct contribution to a much-neglected subject. The book is a searching analysis of the methods of organization and action of legislative bodies, not as they exist on paper, but as they exist in fact, an attempt to look behind the formal reports of proceedings to analyse the shortcomings of our legislative bodies and to see the causes underlying these deficiencies. This effort is a distinct success. Lack of space prevents a detailed review of the various subjects presented.

The scope of the volume may be appreciated by an enumeration of the chief chapter headings which are, Legislative Committees, Procedure in State Legislatures, Legislative Apportionments and Elections, The Perversion of Legislative Action, Public Forces Influencing Legislative Action, and The Legislative Product.

The review of the actual working of the American legislature is not encouraging, though it does not present a hopeless prospect. There is but little theorizing in the volume except when deductions and suggestions are drawn immediately from the experiences of the various states as presented. Professor Reinsch has preferred to adopt the academic standard of allowing the facts themselves to convince the reader rather than resort to detailed argument. After studying the shortcomings and difficulties of the legislator from various points of view the reader clearly realizes how great has been the disappointment of those who looked for the millenium through popular government. Yet the facts martialed by the author do not lead to the belief that the failure is complete, but rather that too much has been expected of legislative bodies. An aroused public opinion, greater care in selection of candidates, greater use of expert guidance, both in organization of the membership and in the drafting of bills, and perhaps an adoption to some degree of the principle of representation of interests rather than of numbers, may yet redeem "government by discussion" and restore the legislature to public confidence. As a whole the book is the best presentation of this subject in limited space which has yet appeared.

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